

## Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /083 W

----- 051202

R 160738Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0676

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 3117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

ADDRESS TO THE NATION

REF: OUAGA 3078

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY  
MESSAGE TO THE NATION CALLED ON ALL VOLTANS TO WORK  
TOGETHER THROUGH THE CHANNEL OF THE NATIONAL RENEWAL  
MOVEMENT TO SAFEGUARD THEIR DIGNITY IN PEACE, HARMONY,  
BROTHERHOOD AND NATIONAL UNITY. HE CONFIRMED THE ABOLITION  
OF THE PATRIOTIC TAX AND ANNOUNCED WAGE INCREASES TO  
BECOME EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 1976. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA BEGAN HIS ADDRESS ON A

SOMBER NOTE, REMINDING THE VOLTANS THAT CONDITIONS DID NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO CELEBRATING THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE IN CAREFREE GAITEY. HE UNDERLINED THIS POINT BY STRESSING THAT POOR COUNTRIES, LIKE UPPER VOLTA, FOUND THEIR NORMALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION COMPOUNDED BY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE MONETARY CRISES AND INFLATION. HE PROMISED THAT UPPER VOLTA WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERT A POSITIVE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE THIRD WORLD CIRCLES TO PRESS TO ACHIEVE A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. TURNING TO MORE PRESSING DOMESTIC CONCERNS, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NON-RENEWAL OF THE PATRIOTIC TAX WOULD IN ITSELF SERVE TO EASE THE COST OF LIVING BURDEN SINCE IT WILL AMOUNT TO AN APPROXIMATE 9 PER CENT REESTABLISHMENT OF PURCHASING POWER. HE ALSO PROMISED A READJUSTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WHICH WILL RESULT IN A 14 PER CENT INCREASE FOR THE LOWEST PAID CIVIL SERVANTS. HE ALSO PROMISED THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE WOULD BE RAISED FROM 47 TO 58.50 CFA, AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT.

4. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA ALSO OUTLINED IN DETAIL THE EFFORTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AREAS AS WELL AS RECENT ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

5. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE INTENTION OF THE NATIONAL RENEWAL MOVEMENT LAUNCHED ON NOV 19, 1975 (OUAGA 3018) WAS TO DIRECT THE VARIOUS ENERGIES AND ABILITIES OF EVERY VOLTAN FOR THE ULTIMATE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY, AND URGED ALL VOLTANS TO COOPERATE. IT WAS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT HE ANNOUNCED AMNESTY FOR PERSONS IMPLICATED IN THE AUGUST 1967 PLOT.

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6. COMMENT: THE GENERAL REACTION TO THE SPEECH APPEARS TO BE POSITIVE. THE WAGE INCREASE, ALTHOUGH LESS THAN THE UNIONS DEMANDED, AND THE REPEAL OF THE PATRIOTIC TAX, SHOULD SERVE TO DIFFUSE THE UNION'S EFFORTS TO HOLD A GENERAL STRIKE ON NOV 17 AND 18.

GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, TAXES, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975OUAGAD03117  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750436-0735  
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**Line Count:** 115  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS TO THE NATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, UV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006